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Letter dated 16 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (see annex I) on its address to the international community in regard to the organization of illegal elections of the President of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine — the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol — as well as a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (see annex II) on the decision of the occupation administration to organize illegal elections of the President of the Russian Federation in the aforementioned temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annexes distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the letter dated 16 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

On Address of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the international community in regard of organization of illegal elections of the President of the Russian Federation at the temporary occupied territories of Ukraine — the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine is hereby resolves:

1. Recognize that intention of the Russian Federation and the occupying administration to illegally hold elections of the President of the Russian Federation on 18 March 2018 at the temporary occupied territories of Ukraine — the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol — is a flagrant violation of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, well-recognized principles and norms of international law, including, the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1994, as well as UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 "Territorial integrity of Ukraine" of 27 March 2014, other international legal acts, as well as numerous bi- and multilateral treaties that both Ukraine and the Russian Federation are parties thereto.

2. Ratify the Address of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the international community in regard of organization of illegal elections of the President of the Russian Federation at the temporary occupied territories of Ukraine — the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (attached hereto).

3. Order that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expeditiously conveys the text of the Address to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, international organizations, parliamentary assemblies, parliaments and governments of the UN member states.

4. This Resolution comes into effect from the date of its adoption.

A. Parubiy
Head of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
City of Kyiv
1 March 2018
No 2310-VIII

Attachment

Address of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the international community in regard of organization of illegal elections of the President of the Russian Federation at the temporary occupied territories of Ukraine — the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

On 20 February 2014, the Russian Federation launched a number of aggressive actions against Ukraine that within a week amounted to direct military invasion and temporary occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, that are integral parts of the sovereign territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

On 18 March 2014, the President of the Russian Federation signed an illegitimate act on illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Throughout the last for years the Russian Federation is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity against civilian population of the temporary occupied territories of Ukraine, including, murders, tortures, abductions, forced displacements, deportations of civil population, ethnic discrimination, coercion to join armed forces of the Russian Federation and crimes against private property.

The Russian Federation wages repressions against civilian population at the temporary occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as at certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, that include numerous arbitrary arrests, abductions, murders and forced displacements.

Non-recognition of legitimacy, condemnation of action of the Russian aggressor, and demand to restore the territorial integrity of Ukraine are reflected in resolutions of the UN General Assembly, in particular in resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 titled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", resolution 71/205 of 19 December 2016 and resolution 72/190 of 19 December 2017 both titled "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine".

The consolidated position of the international community regarding the illegality of occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and recognition of the Russian Federation as the aggressor state is also confirmed by numerous resolutions of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, NATO, other international institutions, as well as by resolutions of foreign governments.

While continuing to blatantly violate the UN Charter, well-recognized principles and norms of international law, the Russian occupation authority intends to hold elections of the President of the Russian Federation on 18 March 2018 at the temporary occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

18 March was chosen intentionally as the date of the elections. It proves yet again how cynic, revanchist, and aggressive the policy of the Kremlin is.

We recognize that such intention is a violation of sovereignty of Ukraine, international treaties between Ukraine and the Russian Federation that confirm sovereignty, territorial integrity, and state borders between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, and are a cognizant provocation aimed at the international community, primarily, to the states signatories to the Memorandum on Security Assurances in

connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 5 December 1994.

Organization of so-called "elections" of the President of the Russian Federation at the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol is yet another effort to legitimize an attempt to illegal annexation. Its outcome shall not entail any legal consequences and shall not be recognized by Ukraine and by the international community.

In light of the above mentioned we welcome decisions of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and of the European Union monitoring mission to not participate in observation of illegal elections in the occupied Crimea.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine calls on the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, NATO, other international organizations, parliamentary assemblies, parliaments and government of foreign states to the following actions:

1. Utilize all possible means to prevent the government of the Russian Federation and the occupation authority from holding elections at the temporary occupied territories of Ukraine — the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

2. Should elections at the temporary occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol held, condemn it, withhold from dispatching monitors to the region in both national and international groups, and outline the fact of illegitimate voting at the temporary occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol that substantially distorts the overall outcome of the elections within the Russian Federation in reports of the monitoring missions, including those dispatched under the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE mandate.

3. Condemn the violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, human rights and freedoms at the temporary occupied territories of Ukraine committed by the Russian Federation and the occupation authority.

4. Impose additional sanctions against the Russian Federation, including individual sanctions (penalties) against persons involved in:

organization of illegal voting at the temporary occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol during the 2016 elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and 2018 elections of the President of the Russian Federation;

systematic violations of human rights at the temporary occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

5. Enhance joint effort to persuade the Russian Federation to comply with the Order of the International Court of Justice of 19 April 2016 in case of the Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ukraine v. Russian Federation) with regard to protection of human rights at the temporary occupied territories.

6. Consolidate pressure on the Russian Federation aimed at introduction of permanent and direct international monitoring of situation in the Crimea by the conventional bodies and institutions of the United Nations, Council of Europe, OSCE, and other international organizations, as well as introduction of control over

adherence of the Russian Federation to its obligations as the Occupying Power under the international humanitarian law.

7. Withhold from receiving state and working visits of the President of the Russian Federation elected as a result of illegal elections at the temporary occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol that are integral part of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Withhold from accepting invitations to conduct state and working visits to the Russian Federation addressed to presidents, heads of governments and members of parliaments of the UN member states.

Annex II to the letter dated 16 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the decision of the occupation administration to organize illegal elections of the President of the Russian Federation at the temporary occupied territories of Ukraine — the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strongly condemns the decision of the occupation administration to hold on 18 March 2018 illegal elections of the President of the Russian Federation at the temporary occupied territories of Ukraine — the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

The organization and conduct of illegal vote in the temporarily occupied part of the territory of Ukraine is yet another step in the implementation of the Kremlin's strategy to legitimize the consequences of aggression against Ukraine. It flagrantly violates fundamental principles and norms of international law, obligations of the Russian Federation under international treaties to which both Ukraine and Russia are parties, legislation of Ukraine as well as contradicts the UN Charter, UN GA Resolutions 68/262 of 27 March 2014 "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine" and 71/205 of 19 December 2016, 72/190 of 19 December 2017 "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine", Helsinki Final Act of 1 August 1975.

The outcome of the illegal voting will be null and void from the legal point of view, will entail any legal consequences and will not be recognized by Ukraine or international community. All involved in the preparation and conduct of illegal elections on the territory of temporarily occupied Crimea will be liable to prosecution in accordance with the national legislation of Ukraine.

Furthermore, illegal voting on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine will distorts the elections results in the Russian Federation in general and will put under serious question their legitimacy.

Ukraine welcomes the decision of OSCE ODHIR and other international partners not to participate in observation of illegal election process in occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. Ukraine expects that the final report of the international mission on monitoring of the elections of the President of the Russian Federation will clearly indicate illegality of the conduct of elections on the territory of Ukrainian Crimea.

Ukraine is confident that the relevant response of the international community to a new attempt of Moscow to undermine founding principles of modern world order — sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders, should provide for increase of sanction pressure on the aggressor-state, including personal targeted sanctions.

We call on our partners to resolutely condemn illegal actions of the Russian Federation in the form of organization of "elections" in the temporarily occupied Crimea and not to recognize their "results".

Ukraine resumes its categorical demand to the Russian Federation to stop military aggression against our country, to de-occupy captured territories, having withdrawn its military forces from them.